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Cassis legislation allows school districts flexibility

LANSING - State Sen. Nancy Cassis introduced legislation Wednesday to give Michigan school districts more flexibility in determining when to administer the Michigan Educational Assessment Program Test.

“During the discussion of the Labor Day start date, superintendents raised the issue of giving adequate time for teachers at the start of the school year to refresh students’ skills after summer break in preparation for the MEAP test,” said Cassis, R-Novi, vice chair of the Senate Education Committee. “As a former educator, I realize that the MEAP helps administrators, teachers and parents gain valuable information on a student’s academic strengths and weaknesses so critical to proper individualized curriculum planning.”

Senate Bill 807 prohibits schools from beginning MEAP testing before Oct. 1 in any given school year. It also gives school districts five weeks to administer the MEAP test. Currently, they must do so within three weeks.

“Studies indicate that it takes six weeks for students to rebuild their study habits after summer vacation,” Cassis said. “In light of the later school start date, this gives educators the time they need to bring students up to speed.”

The bill now goes before the Senate Education Committee.

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